



# SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

31 January 2022

### Restrictions on Access to Western Australian Courts

New public health directions effective from today will impact upon access to court and tribunal premises by anyone who is unvaccinated.

From 5 February 2022, unless they are exempt persons, court and tribunal workers must comply with vaccination requirements to enter courthouses in Western Australia. This includes legal practitioners, media representatives and persons summoned as part of a jury pool. Any unvaccinated person called for jury service should liaise with the Sheriff's Office before attending a courthouse.

The new requirements were made by the *Court and Tribunal Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions* issued today under the *Public Health Act 2016 (WA)*.

In addition, effective from today, any person (including members of the public) may be required to provide evidence of vaccination status for inspection, recording and retention if required by a relevant Head of Jurisdiction. For this reason, all persons attending a court or tribunal should be in a position to present evidence of vaccination status if required.

The *Directions* do not prevent entry of parties and witnesses, but those persons may also be required to provide evidence of vaccination status. Each court or tribunal will maintain the power to control its own processes and as such persons who are not vaccinated may be required to attend proceedings remotely or comply with precautionary measures. In some circumstances, proceedings may be closed to the public.

As stated in the *Directions*, the purpose of the restrictions is to put in place measures to address the unique risks posed by COVID-19 in a court and tribunal setting in order to limit the spread of the virus.

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